

# Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

## A Summary of Economic Performance in the Surrounding Communities



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

### BACKGROUND

The 1,880,000 acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was designated in 1996 in recognition of the region's unspoiled natural beauty—from its spectacular Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces, to the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau, and the wonders of the Escalante River Canyons. Located in Garfield and Kane counties, Utah the monument is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

### PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE OF THE MONUMENT

The monument allows grazing, rights of way, hunting, fishing, and many other activities. The pristine landscape and unparalleled recreational opportunities attract thousands of Americans each year.

### TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Travel and tourism is important to communities in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region, representing about 37% of total private wage and salary employment, or 1,194 jobs, in 2008. In Utah, the Outdoor Industry Foundation reports that recreation contributes more than \$5 billion annually to the state's economy.<sup>6</sup>

### SUMMARY FINDINGS

Research shows that conserving public lands like the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that draw new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities.<sup>1</sup>

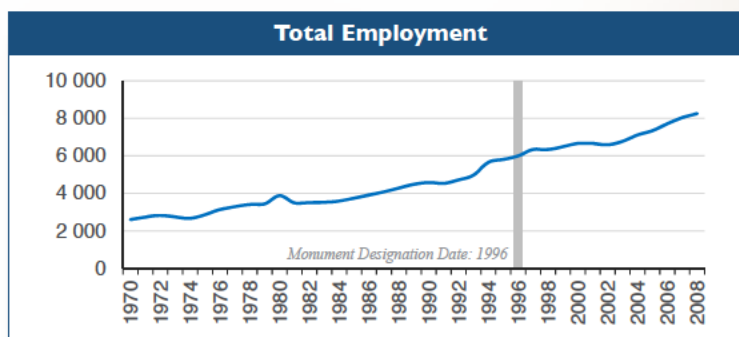
Western counties with protected public lands, like national monuments, have been more successful at attracting fast-growing economic sectors and as a result grow more quickly, on average, than counties without protected public lands.<sup>2</sup> In addition, protected natural amenities—such as the pristine scenery found at Grand Staircase-Escalante—also help sustain property values and attract new investment.<sup>3</sup>

### ECONOMY GROWS AFTER DESIGNATION

The communities in Garfield and Kane counties, Utah neighboring the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region) experienced strong growth after the 1996 designation of the monument, continuing previous growth trends.

From 1996 to 2008, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region:<sup>4</sup>

- Population grew by 8%
- Real personal income grew by 40%
- Jobs grew by 38%
- Real per capita income grew by 30%

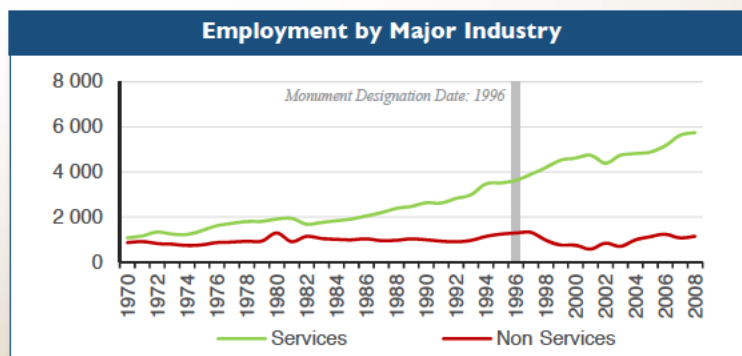


### SERVICES JOBS INCREASING ACROSS THE BOARD

Services jobs—such as doctors, engineers, and teachers—account for the majority of employment growth in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region in recent decades. These jobs are increasingly mobile, and many entrepreneurs locate their businesses in areas with a high quality of life.

From 1996 to 2008, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region:<sup>5</sup>

- Services grew from 3,627 to 5,749 jobs, a 59% increase
- Non-Services shrank from 1,294 to 1,148 jobs, an 11% decrease





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THE COMMUNITIES IN GARFIELD AND KANE COUNTIES NEIGHBORING THE NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPERIENCED STRONG GROWTH SINCE ITS DESIGNATION IN 1996.

THE INCREASES IN POPULATION, JOBS, PERSONAL INCOME, AND PER CAPITA INCOME MIRROR OTHER WESTERN COUNTIES WITH NATIONAL MONUMENTS OR OTHER PROTECTED LANDS.

#### METHODOLOGY

*This fact sheet is part of a series that assesses the economic performance of local communities that are adjacent to national monuments. The series examines national monuments in the eleven western continental states that are larger than 10,000 acres and were created in 1982 or later.*

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Series: *The Economic Importance of National Monuments*

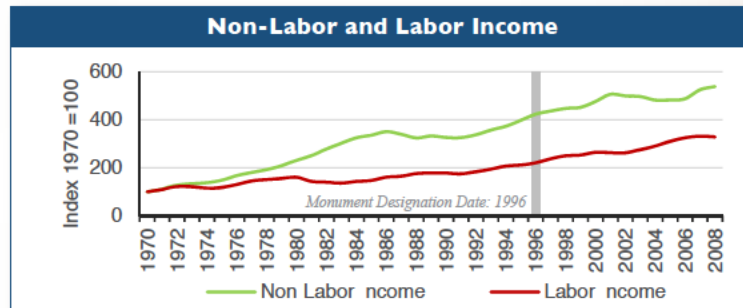
## NON-LABOR INCOME GROWS FASTEST

One of the largest and fastest growing sources of new personal income in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region is non-labor income, which is made up of investment income such as dividends, interest and rent, and government transfer payments such as Social Security and Medicare.

For people with investment income and many retirees, protected public lands and recreation provide important aspects of a high quality of life. Non-labor income already represents more than a third of all personal income in the West—and will grow as the Baby Boomer generation retires.<sup>7</sup>

**From 1996 to 2008, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region:**

- Non-Labor income grew from \$96 million to \$122 million, a 27% increase
- As a result, in 2008 non-labor income made up 36% of total personal income



## TRADITIONAL JOBS HOLD STEADY

Long before the monument's creation, commodity industries (agriculture, mining, timber) were becoming a smaller share of the overall economy in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region. These industries remain part of the region's economy today.

**In 2008, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region:**

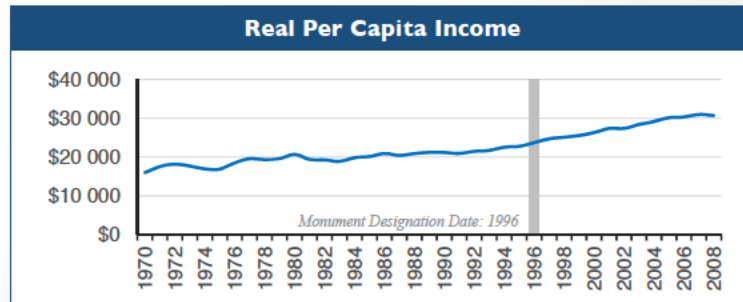
- Agriculture accounted for 5% of total employment
- Mining accounted for 0.6% of total private employment
- Timber accounted for 1% of total private employment

## PROSPERITY ON THE RISE

As the economy has grown since designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, per capita income has risen as well. This indicates growing prosperity in the region.

**From 1996 to 2008, in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Region:**

- Real per capita income grew from \$23,698 to \$30,701, a 30% increase



1 Lorah, P. R. Southwick, et al. 2003. Environmental Protection, Population Change, and Economic Development in the Rural Western United States. *Population and Environment* 24(3): 255-272. McGranahan, D. A. 1999. Natural Amenities Drive Rural Population Change. E. R. S. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Washington, D.C. Haas, W. H., W. J. Serow, et al. 2002. The Baby Boom, Amenity Retirement Migration, and Retirement Communities: Will the Golden Age of Retirement Continue? *Research on Aging* 24(1): 150-164.

2 Rasker, R. 2006. An Exploration into the Economic Impact of Industrial Development Versus Conservation on Western Public Lands. *Society & Natural Resources*, 19(3): 191-207.

3 Deller, S. C., T. H. Tsai, et al. 2001. The Role of Amenities and Quality of Life in Rural Economic Growth. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 83(2): 352-365.

4 All economic data comes from U.S. Department of Commerce. 2010. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2010. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, Washington, D.C.

5 The U.S. Department of Commerce changed the way it classifies industries between 2000 and 2001. To show a continuous timeline for services and non-services employment we subtracted non-services jobs from total private employment to derive services jobs. The national recession from March-November 2001 also may account for short-term employment volatility around 2001.

6 Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006. The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: A \$730 Billion Annual Contribution to the U.S. Economy.

7 Frey, W. H. 2006. America's Regional Demographics in the '00 Decade: The Role of Seniors, Boomers and New Minorities. The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.